

U.S.S.N. 09/201,072-1102
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Group Art Unit: 3739
Examiner: D. Shay
Attorney Docket No. 101327-125

Clean Copy Of The Amended Claim

✓ 44 (Amended). A surgical system comprising:

Q1 a hollow elongate surgical instrument, having at least one lumen for receiving an optical fiber, and being maneuverable to provide a conduit for transmission of laser energy to a surgical site; and

▷ a flexible, elongate fiber for conducting laser energy from a proximal end of said fiber to a surgical site at a distal end of said fiber, the proximal end for receiving laser energy, and said fiber being a silica fiber ^{including means for reducing} ~~having a low hydroxyl ion content to reduce absorption of laser~~ energy at a wavelength of about 1.4-2.2 micrometers.